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The Times

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THE LARGEST IN THE CITY.

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ONE CENT

SEIZED THE DISPATCHES

Spanish Authorities Refused to Deliver Papers to Our Consul.

LEE'S MAIL TAMPERED WITH

Consul Baker Has Written a Bitter Complaint to Secretary Olney. The Activity of Gen. Rivera Is Causing Uneasiness in Havana Weyler to Return.

New York, Feb. 2.—A dispatch from Havana says: It is said here that Gen. Weyler will return to Havana in view of the great activity of the insurgents in this province and the plans attributed to Gen. Rius Rivera for dealing a hard blow to Spain at the very doors of the capital. Since his arrival in the Havana province from Pinar del Rio Rivera has been organizing the Cuban forces in such a way as to give serious uneasiness to the Spanish authorities.

Gen. Weyler and the Marquis of Alameda were in constant communication Sunday, and facts about the suspicious movements of the Cubans now concentrating under Rivera's command, were transmitted to the Spanish commander-in-chief.

The Cuban general, Adolfo Castillo, narrowly escaped being assassinated by a Spanish named Pico Diaz, who was paid for that purpose, and is generally believed here by Gov. Porrua, under the instructions of Weyler.

The chief engineer of the train to Guanabacoa, arrested several days ago, after Arraiguen's attempt to kidnap Maj. Fournier, who was supposed to be on that train, hanged himself yesterday in his cell in jail because he could no longer endure the cruel treatment he suffered at the hands of the Spaniards. The poor man was tortured every day in order to extract from him accusations against some of the Cuban residents of Guanabacoa. He left a paper in which he said he committed suicide because he feared that the tortures he suffered would induce him to accuse innocent persons who, in their turn, would be made victims of Spanish barbarity.

News comes from Matanzas of a serious engagement in Jaguay Grande between the Cuban forces commanded by Brigadier Eduardo Garcia and the Spanish column of Col. Alameda. The idea of Alameda was, by an unexpected attack, to prevent the concentration of Cuban troops ordered by Gen. Garcia. The fight lasted six hours, and the Spaniards were compelled to retire after having exhausted all their ammunition.

Consul Walter R. Barker, United States representative in Havana, Cuba, is indignant over an insult offered to him by the Spanish authorities of that place, and it is understood that he has written a bitter complaint to Secretary Olney. According to advice received the consul was expecting a visit from the Spanish representative in reference to certain important matters affecting the relations of Spain and the United States. He learned that the dispatches had been forwarded, and when they did not arrive in due course he made inquiries.

He found that the dispatches had reached Spain, but that they had been opened and read by the Spanish authorities. Consul Barker was very indignant, and called on the Spanish commandant and demanded the dispatches. That official refused to give them up, and so in an insulting manner, but Americans kept the dispatches nearly a week, and treated Consul Barker's complaints with contempt. Finally, after the documents had been copied, the Spaniards turned them over to the consul. The latter in the meanwhile had written a strong letter to Secretary Olney, recommending the circumstances, and saying that if the United States proposed to permit its representative to be insulted with impunity he would resign.

This is the first known case where the Spanish officials have opened and read the dispatches of an American consul. It is stated on the authority of one close to Gen. Lee that his mail has been frequently tampered with.

A Cuban named Rullat, at Guanabacoa, was accused of being a Cuban spy, and a Spanish patrol went to his house Thursday to arrest him. His two sons resisted and were shot down. The two men were cut down with machetes. His four daughters, the eldest not yet eighteen years old, were taken to a room in the yard, stripped and cruelly whipped. Afterward they were taken away by the soldiers and have not been heard from since.

CIGARETTE MAKERS PLEAD

Mr. Duke Says He Did Not Enter Into a Conspiracy.

New York, Feb. 2.—Counsel for James E. Duke and other directors of the American Tobacco Company appeared in the court of general sessions yesterday and pleaded not guilty to the indictment charging them with conspiracy in that they refused to sell paper cigarettes to dealers and jobbers unless on terms that prevented the latter from buying cigarettes from any other manufacturer.

A Conservative Victory.

London, Feb. 2.—The parliamentary election to fill the seat in the House of Commons made vacant by the retirement of Mr. Alfred Milner-Wigram, Conservative, member for the Rotherham division of Essex, who resigned on account of ill health, took place yesterday and resulted in the choice of Mr. Schellenger Smith, Conservative, by a vote of 8,156 to 8,031 cast for Mr. Esphel, the Liberal candidate.

President Roberts' Funeral.

Philadelphia, Feb. 2.—Prominent railroad men from all parts of the country arrived here last night and this morning to attend the funeral of the late George B. Roberts, president of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, which will take place later this afternoon from the home of the deceased at Bala, a suburb of this city.

An Express Train Ditched.

Wenatchee, Wash., Feb. 2.—Great Northern express train No. 3, westbound, was derailed yesterday near here. Fireman Harry Wilson and an unknown passenger were seriously injured. The remaining passengers, twenty-seven in number, were badly shaken up and bruised, but none were dangerously hurt.

A Grand Sale of Oriental Textiles and Floor Decorations.

Read Latimer's advertisement in The Times this evening of Oriental Carpets and Rugs. Now on exhibition. Sale Thursday at 11 a. m. and 3 p. m., continuing until all are sold.

GOING TO OUST PINGREE.

An Attorney Claims He Cannot Be Mayor and Governor.

Lansing, Mich., Feb. 2.—The first steps were taken in the Michigan supreme court last night to oust Gov. Pingree from the office of governor, which he has held since his inauguration as governor. Attorney Baker, of Detroit, asked for an order directing the Detroit common council to show cause why mandamus should not issue to compel the holding of a special election in that city, to choose a successor to Mayor Pingree, who, by accepting the office of governor, is declared to have vacated the office of mayor. The two offices are said to be incompatible. The court will consider the petition tomorrow.

TESTIMONY RULED OUT.

Judge Cook Held That There Was No Connection Regarding Seals.

San Francisco, Cal., Feb. 2.—Judge Cook yesterday decided to rule out all testimony regarding the duplicates of the Crocker & Co., notarial blanks printed for the defense in the case of Notary Conner, who is now under examination for perjury in the acknowledgment of deeds executed by the late Senator Fair in favor of Mrs. Craven. The judge held that no connection between the defendant and the duplicate blanks had been established.

MAY WINTAGE IN THE PLOT

Forger Valentine Was Equipped to Escape From Prison.

Rope, Screw Drivers and a Sharp Knife Found in the Convict's Cell—The Girl's Visit.

New York, Feb. 2.—May Wintage, the delicate sensitive girl whom her lover's deception exasperated to the extreme of trying to kill herself when he was arrested, has, it is believed, permitted his desolation as a convict to urge her to the extreme of attempting to rescue him. William Edgar Valentine, whose syndicate of criminals dealt in millions, almost escaped from the Kings county penitentiary yesterday. His means were abundant. He had in his cell several pieces of twisted rope strong enough to support the weight of a man much heavier than he. Tied together in knots, they would cover a length of fifty feet, the distance from his window to the ground, and from the ground over the ugly wall of the penitentiary.

He had two small screwdrivers, made of tension bolts used in ships to regulate machinery. He had a knife, two and a half inches long, made of a rattan file. There was nothing apparently between him and liberty with May Wintage except Fate.

The inspection of cells in the penitentiary is not periodic, but purposely intermittent. The convicts are not searched every day, nor are their women cellmates. Valentine had not been a convict long enough to know that to have the means of escape would establish the necessity of using them immediately.

May Wintage called on him Wednesday. His cell was visited Sunday. The rope, the screw drivers and the knife were found, and now he is in solitary confinement for seven days and deprived of all privileges for thirty days.

The convicts work at canvas mail bags for the United States service. The pieces of twisted rope which Valentine had were carried by him, evidently, from the ships to his cell, and he admitted this. Where he obtained the screw drivers and the file he has not confessed. He said, in a hurry way: "They must have been put there by somebody who wishes to harm me." The confederate whom he expected to meet at his flight is not mentioned by him.

May Wintage had shot herself in a little room on Ralph avenue, in Brooklyn, which she had rented. The sisters of St. Mary's Hospital had persuaded her to make a confession, and it was at Middle Village, where she was convalescent, that Valentine was arrested. Her resentment against him vanished as soon as she knew that he could not avoid punishment.

Her indifference to him when he seemed to be out of the reach of the police melted when his trial began. She followed eagerly every phase of his prosecution and when, on December 8, he was sentenced to imprisonment for ten years in the Kings county penitentiary, May Wintage was his only friend.

THE ARMOR PLATE INQUIRY

Secretary Herbert Defended His Report Before the Committee.

Final Action Will Be Taken on Thursday Next—A Very Interesting Meeting.

Probably one of the most interesting meetings the Senate Committee on Naval Affairs has had since it began the investigation of the subject of armor plate was held today.

Secretary Herbert and Commodore Sampson, representing the navy, and Messrs. Schwab, of the Carnegie Company; Lieut. C. A. Stone, its Washington representative, and Richard P. Linderman, president of the Bethlehem Company, were present.

The armor plate men insisted that the Secretary's report had not been accurate, either in its conclusions or in its facts. He had not been liberal enough by 40 per cent in his estimates of the cost of labor in producing armor plate. Cost could not be made, both firms stated, for less than the sum for which they had agreed to make it—\$450 a ton.

Secretary Herbert defended his report and insisted that his conclusions were not only accurate, but just, both to the companies and the government.

A special meeting of the committee will be held Thursday, when it is expected the committee will take some official action on the subject that has now been under investigation for the past six months.

Stock Brokers Failed.

Boston, Feb. 2.—H. C. Hodges & Co., stock and grain brokers, assigned today. It is said on the street that the drop of twelve points in wheat was indirectly the cause of the failure.

MURDERED MANY PEOPLE

Frank Butler Placed Under Arrest at San Francisco.

HIS LONG LIST OF VICTIMS

Evidence of His Guilt Are Being Unearthed Every Hour—He Lured People Into the Hills and Killed Them—Known Under Numerous Names.

San Francisco, Feb. 2.—The Swanhilla, from Newcastle, Australia, arrived this morning. Frank Butler, the Australian murderer, was arrested and brought ashore. Butler, who is also known in various sections of Australia as Harwood, Ashle, Burgess, Clare, Simpson, and Weller, is a criminal of the most atrocious order. He possessed the cunning of Deening and the facility of execution of H. H. Holmes. As is usual in such cases, Butler is accused of a number of crimes, which cannot at present be proved against him, although evidence of his guilt are being unearthed every hour. It is known beyond doubt, however, that at least two men, Arthur Thomas O. Preston and Capt. Lee Weller, met death at his hands within the past four months.

Early in October Butler, who then masqueraded as Frank P. Harwood, having assumed the name of a man who disappeared while in his company a month before, advertised in a Sydney paper for a prospecting mate. Preston, a young student at Sydney University, replied to the advertisement. Butler represented himself as a mining expert, and induced Preston to accompany him on a trip to Enu Plains, a small station at the foot of the Blue Mountains. Forty miles from Sydney, where they left the railway station and struck out for the mountains. A few days later Butler returned alone and reported that he had split with Preston because the student was "too slow."

Almost immediately after Butler's return the advertisement for a prospecting mate appeared again, this time with a different address. Capt. Lee Weller, a retired master mariner, fell in the net, and about November 7 he and Butler set out together for Enu Plains.

In less than a week Butler appeared in Sydney with the story that his mate was ill. Weller's friends became suspicious, and organized a party, who searched for him in the mountains.

On November 25 the coat of the missing captain, the remnants of his pocketbook and other trinkets belonging to him were found beside the ashes of a campfire, near which were also discovered a pair of trousers, a black leather leggings and a coat bearing Butler's name. Soon by skin the threads of his pocketbook were slowly unraveled. Residents in the neighborhood of Enu Plains brought forward information of having seen Butler first with Preston, and afterward with Weller.

The search party was augmented by scores of volunteers and on Tuesday, December 1, Preston's undisturbed body was found on a bridge, not far from the campfire, where the trail was first taken up. On the following Tuesday Preston's body was discovered in a shallow grave at the head of Namanita gully. He had been shot through the head, stripped of his clothing and dumped up in a narrow trench. The search for Weller was continued unceasingly until December 6, when his remains were found beneath a small mound on the banks of Glenbrook creek, he having been buried in exactly the same manner as Preston.

Meanwhile Butler has been located in Newcastle, where, on November 15, he was registered at the Sailors' Home as Lee Weller, remaining there for eight days. He was next heard of at Sydney, where he booked a second mate for the bark Davaan, in the name of Capt. Lee Weller, using the dead mariner's certificate. The captain of the Hawaiian Isles changed his mind and released Butler from his engagement. Butler then applied to Capt. Fraser, of the ship Swanhilla, bound for San Francisco with coal, and was engaged as an able seaman, again using Weller's certificate and name.

The Swanhilla left Newcastle November 23, two days before the first evidence of Butler's crime was brought to light. Since that date the Sydney authorities have been advised that during the month of August, Frank P. Harwood was introduced to Butler and the two men went prospecting at Cohar, N. S. W. Harwood was never seen again, and search is now being made for his body.

A well-to-do resident of Germantown named Leach, who is known to have gone "prospecting" with Butler in September last, is missing, as is Frank Campbell, a young man who answered one of Butler's advertisements and accompanied him to Mudgee not many months ago.

Shortly after Campbell's disappearance another young man, whose name is unknown, was observed in Butler's company, and he, too, is among the missing. In several other cases the evidence is not so clear, but the authorities claim that Butler can easily be convicted of at least five murders. It is known that his accomplices have appeared in Sydney papers under various disguises since 1887, and those with whom he has lodged since that time assert that he did not lack for answers.

This, so far, is the story of a series of crimes that have aroused the most intense excitement in all Australia.

The Swanhilla was sighted at 5 o'clock and a tug signaled to the waiting officers that the long-expected vessel had arrived, and that Murderer Butler was aboard.

The revenue cutter Hartley, with detectives and reporters aboard, put off just before daylight, when Butler made their escape before they were more dangerously injured.

He Retired From Wall Street.

New York, Feb. 2.—Samuel D. Davis, vice president and financial official of the Columbus, Hocking Valley and Toledo Railroad, yesterday announced his retirement from Wall Street.

Mr. Davis was introduced to Butler by a member of the New York Stock Exchange since May 3, 1896. His present firm was formed January 2, 1896.

Murderer Taylor Extradited.

London, Feb. 2.—Edward R. Taylor, alias Arthur W. Platt, who is under arrest here for killing Jesse Tyree in Kentucky, in 1885, was formally extradited in the Bow street police court today, and will be taken to America at once by the Kentucky officials who came here to secure his extradition.

Gone Into Voluntary Liquidation.

Spokane, Wash., Feb. 2.—The First National Bank of Okanogan, Spokane county, has gone into voluntary liquidation. Depositors are notified to come and get their money.

PRINCE OF CHIMAT DIVORCED.

His Wife Elopel With a Hungarian Gypsy Fiddler.

Brussels, Feb. 2.—The action for divorce brought by the Prince of Chimat against his wife, formerly Clara Ward, of Detroit, Mich., who eloped from Paris last fall, with Janos Rigo, a Hungarian Gypsy fiddler, which was adjourned on January 19, for a fortnight, came up in the court at Charleroi today, for the pronouncement of the judgment.

The court, at half an hour of absolute silence, announced the decree of absolute divorce was granted to the Prince of Chimat upon the grounds alleged in his complaint against his wife, abandonment and adultery.

COX LEFT IN A DUDGEON

A Lively Time at the Banking Committee's Hearing.

Representatives Spaulding and Cox Asked Questions of Comptroller Eckels Which Chairman Walker Would Not Permit Him to Answer.

Comptroller Eckels today further discussed banking and currency matters with the House Committee on Banking and Currency. Replying to a question, Mr. Eckels said that a banking bill which did not get rid of demand obligations would not relieve the existing condition of the Treasury. In his opinion gold could not go to a premium as long as banks redeemed in gold.

Mr. Walker, the chairman, took the floor and began questions relative to his bill. When the section of his explanation of the measure reading, "It (the bill) provides a sure and safer method for the current redemption and also the final redemption of such notes than under existing laws," Mr. Walker objected, saying that he had the floor.

Mr. Spaulding replied that if he did not have the right to ask questions on a paragraph, when it was reached, he would not serve on the committee.

Mr. Walker replied that Mr. Eckels would cord it time to ask questions on his bill and he would keep the floor.

After some discussion it was agreed to go through the bill and ask questions on it later.

A few minutes later Mr. Cox of Tennessee interrupted with a question.

Mr. Walker objected to this. Mr. Cox said that he would understand this matter or go back to the House.

Mr. Cox pressed his inquiry and Mr. Walker instructed the official reporter not to take the remarks of Mr. Cox down.

Mr. Cox replied that he did not care whether or not they were taken down and again inquired if he could ask his question.

Mr. Walker said the committee had agreed on his bill as agreed to by the committee.

Mr. Cox left the room.

Mr. Eckels agreed with Mr. Walker in the statement that under the present law the United States had the most expensive currency system of any first-class nation. Our government, he said, had the worst financial system of any first-class nation in the world. It was the result, in almost every instance, of immediate necessities, the first springing from the late war.

He also agreed with the suggestion of Mr. Walker, which makes it to the interest of banks to furnish the Secretary of the Treasury, as advisors, any information relating to banking matters.

The bill of Mr. Walker, he said, embodied a good many correct banking systems. Its principal object, as with other bills, was that it undertook to engrave an entirely new note system upon the present system. Further, he did not believe in having the government issue any more demand obligations.

OFFERED VOTES FOR MONEY.

Sensational Testimony in Washington Senatorial Investigation.

Olympia, Wash., Feb. 2.—The sensational investigation by the house committee developed additional sensational testimony last evening. Representative Tobias swore that one of Senator-elect Turner's managers had approached him with an offer of money for his vote.

Senator Tobias, on oath, testified as follows: "In the presence of Dr. Callahan, my political manager, Warner offered to deliver twenty-four votes for money. Warner wanted \$1,000 to begin with. He said that a combination could be organized, by which it was to be agreed that the majority should control. He suggested that a contingent sum of \$5,000 be provided and paid, in case of my election. Warner took a roll-call of the legislature, and read off the names of twenty-four members who he indicated he would induce to the combination."

Mr. Callahan swore that Warner's offer to deliver twenty-four votes for \$6,000 was made in his presence.

ALGER BOUGHT TIMBER LANDS.

He Now Owns a Controlling Interest in a Canadian Company.

Saratoga, N. Y., Feb. 2.—Gen. Russell A. Alger, of Michigan, who is to be President McKinley's Secretary of War, has made an extensive investment in the Dominion of Canada.

Senator Warner Miller, of Berkshire, N. Y.; Warren Curtis, of Palmer, N. Y.; and S. A. Paget, of New York City, have sold Gen. Alger a controlling interest in the Laurentide Company of Grand Mere, which is situated near Three Rivers, in the province of Quebec.

The company owns thousands of acres of heavy timber land and many large mills, some of which are devoted to the production of pulp. Messrs. Miller, Paget, and Curtis are heavily interested in the Hudson River Pulp and Paper Company, whose immense plant is located at Palmer, in Saratoga county.

Deaths of a Day.

At Pikes county, S. C., Sunday, Bill Dodgins, aged 103 years.

At New Orleans yesterday Edward Conner, a well-known millionaire.

Sir Thomas Spencer Wells, at Antibes, France, a distinguished English physician and surgeon.

At London, Thomas Bateman, who was twice president of the Primitive Methodist Conference.

M. Martini, the inventor of the rifle bearing his name, yesterday, at Frauenfeld, Thurgau.

Infanta Marie Louise Ferdinande, Duchess of Montpensier, at London. She was sixty-five years of age.

Miss Martha J. McKewen, at Pittsburgh, one of the most noted foreign missionary workers of the United Presbyterian Church.

At New York last night, of heart disease, Edward Grosvenor, Internal revenue collector. He had been sick but a short time and his death was unexpected.

Baron Jean Marie Georges de Southeyran, French politician, and former member of the Chamber of Deputies, is dead, at Paris. He was sixty-seven years old.

Ivy Institute Business College, 5th and K. None better. \$25 a year, day or night.

TYPHOID FEVER IN CANTON.

The Disease Is Attributed to the Water Supply.

Canton, Ohio, Feb. 2.—The information was imparted yesterday that there are over 100 cases of typhoid fever in this city. The cause is attributed to the water supply, and the board of health has advised precautionary methods.

There have been several deaths from the fever. Mrs. Emma Trill, formerly an annuitant for Major McKinley, is among those who have succumbed to the disease. The public schools, hotels and other places are using water from artesian wells.

RAILROAD SECURITIES SOLD.

Over a Million Dollars Worth Disposed of in Germany.

New York, Feb. 2.—A report which has been current for several days of a large sale of Northern Pacific Railroad securities in Germany was confirmed yesterday.

The sale was made by the syndicate which underwrote the Northern Pacific reorganization plan to the Deutsche Bank of Berlin, which was represented in the transaction by Edward D. Adams, the chairman of the board of directors of the Northern Pacific. The amount involved was said to be \$1,000,000.

THE BAR ASSOCIATION CALL

It Will Meet and Perhaps Favor Mr. Davis' Confirmation.

The Nominee Promises to Give a Vigorous Administration of the Office.

A meeting of the District Bar Association has been called for Thursday afternoon and notice sent out by Vice President Samuel Madox, who will preside, and Secretary William Meyer Levin. The announcement states that the purpose of the meeting is to take appropriate action on the nomination of Mr. Davis to be district attorney.

Mr. Davis was accorded an informal reception this morning at the City Hall. He stood in the favorable light outside the circuit courtroom, and received the congratulations of many friends. There seems to be no doubt among the lawyers that Mr. Davis' nomination will be confirmed by the Senate. Much pressure is being brought to bear upon the Judiciary Committee for a speedy and favorable report.

The law governing the office of District Attorney differs from that controlling other District officers. The term of Mr. A. A. Barney expires on Saturday next, and the confirmation of Mr. Davis is desired before that time, so that there will be no provision in the law providing for the holding over of the present incumbent, or for the making of a temporary appointment.

It is believed among the members of the bar that the confirmation will, however, take place by Saturday, and Mr. Davis will immediately take charge. He declined this morning to express himself as to any set policy in conducting the office, but it is remarked by his friends that the prosecution of crime will be pushed vigorously.

"I do not think it time yet for me to say anything as to my intentions," said Mr. Davis to The Times representative. "I have not yet been confirmed. When that takes place I will be willing to express myself as to my policy. I will say, though, that it will be my ambition and endeavor to give this community an administration of the office which will be as near as I can make it the best ever had."

"I am sure you will," remarked Mr. McGill, who caught the lawyer's remarks.

Mr. Davis said he had not given the slightest attention yet to any thought of changes in the office, and would leave that until after Saturday.

Lectures at Yale.

New Haven, Conn., Feb. 2.—Arrangements have been completed at Yale for the most pretentious lecture course ever given at the university, the following speakers having consented to appear immediately: George W. Smalley, Yale, '84, of Philadelphia; Charles H. Hopkins, Yale, '71, of Hartford; David E. Wells, of Norwich, and Edward J. Phelps, of the Yale Law School, ex-minister to England. Dates and subjects have not yet been assigned.

THE GROUND HOG'S GLEE

He Came Out Today But Could Not Find His Shadow.

It Is Expected That an Early Spring Will Follow and Fair Weather Prevail.

The groundhog, the oldest established and only original weather prophet in the business, at noon today came out of his winter retreat and glanced about in anxious search of his shadow.

The Weather Bureau, with a watchful eye for good weather on inauguration day, had provided a rain storm. The groundhog, which obscured Old Sol with such a thick veil of clouds that the erudite hog couldn't have found his shadow with a searchlight.

Therefore, according to the established rule, the citizen can pack away his chinchilla overcoat and his ashen ear muffs and take his light clothing out of the clothes press in preparation for an early spring.

For one day, at least, the Weather Bureau is willing to put its official stamp of approval upon the ground hog's prognostication, and tomorrow they promise a fine, sunny day, which will do much to obliterate from the Weather Bureau and escape the decidedly unpleasant traces of today's rain and the preceding snow.

Further than this they are not prepared to back their ground hogship, but their indications for a week ahead are favorable for a continuation of the good weather.

The rainstorm forms the other edge of a hurricane, the center of which just now is somewhere in North Carolina. It originated in Texas last Sunday, and has since been traveling in a northeasterly direction. Some time today the hurricane, it is predicted, will leave the land and pass up along the Atlantic coast, thereby threatening serious damage to the incoming and outgoing vessels.

The bureau has ordered storm signals hung out all along the coast from Wilmington, Del., to Eastport, Me., warning the shippers of the impending danger.

12-Inch Stock Boards \$1 Per 100 Ft.

Libbey & Co., 6th and New York ave.

CAPITOL BUILDING ON FIRE

The Flames Do Serious Damage at Harrisburg, Pa.

OVER THE SENATE CHAMBER

It Was Discovered at the Second Floor of the Main Building—The Efforts of Men With Buckets Were Futile—The Legislators Were Startled.

Harrisburg, Pa., Feb. 2.—Fire was discovered in Lieut.-Gov. Lyon's room on the second floor of the main building of the capitol shortly before 1 o'clock today. The room is directly over the senate chamber and close to the senate elevator.

The senate had taken a recess at 12:55 until 1 o'clock to await the reception from the house of the amended Mendenhall resolution, and it was just as President Pro Tem McCallister was preparing to take the chair that a page boy gave him the information that the fire had been discovered. It was thought at first to be of a trivial nature, and Chief Clerk Stanley organized a bucket brigade to go into service.

Meanwhile an alarm was sent in from the senate building. The efforts of the men with the buckets were futile, and they returned with the information that the flames were beyond their control.

The senate was well filled when this news was received, and it spread rapidly among the senators and spectators that the fire was of a most serious nature. There was a scrambling for overcoats and hats, and, under the chief clerk's direction, the senate retired to a place of safety. With the arrival of the fire department came thousands of spectators, and Capitol Park, in the vicinity of the burning building, was soon a mass of struggling humanity.

Before the fire could be directed a stream on the burning building it was found that the flames were beyond control.

Later—The main building of the capitol, including the senate and house chambers and the headquarters of several executive departments, is in ruins. No one seriously injured.

AN INAUGURATION INTERIM.

The Executive Committee Awaits the Action of Congress.

The inauguration headquarters had few visitors today. This was partly due to the weather, partly to the fact that contractors have been nearly all settled, and everything is ready so far as the law allows. The executive officers and clerical force were busy carrying forward work already agreed upon.

The passage by the Senate yesterday of the resolution granting the use of the public spaces and of flags, permitting the necessary extension of overhead wires and appointing special policemen for the inauguration puts the arrangement of further details apparently in easy reach. It is expected that the amendment made by the Senate will be readily agreed to by the House, and before the close of the week all plans under the resolution will be made.

The question whether the West Point cadets will occupy the War